

VICTIM OF DOWRY Another succumbs to burn injuries

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A housewife who was set on fire by her in-laws over dowry died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) early yesterday after fighting for life for five days.

Yasmin Akter, 18, a resident of Kapasia in Gazipur, got married to Babul Ahmed Zahir, a sales representative of a food products company, only eight months ago. Her in-laws received dowry during the marriage, but their greed for more dowry led them to set her on fire at their house in Monohardi on Saturday.

Severely injured Yasmin was rushed to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital before she was shifted to the burn unit of DMCH.

On Wednesday, a day before her death, Yasmin told this correspondent at DMCH that her husband had beaten her up on Saturday morning following a quarrel over dowry. "After he [Zahir] left the house, my mother-in-law and father-in-law tied my hands with a scarf and set me on fire after pouring kerosene over my body."

"As the neighbours rushed

in hearing my scream, my in-laws hurriedly untied my hands and doused the fire and told them that I wanted to commit suicide by setting fire to my body," Yasmin said.

She also said, "My husband has been pressuring me to bring Tk one lakh as dowry from my family although they have already given the same amount to him just after our marriage."

"Zahir had also threatened me on the day that he would divorce me within one week, if my family does not pay the money," she added.

Yasmin also said that Zahir and his family members often tortured her in the last one month as her family refused to give more money.

Yasmin's brother Md Harun filed a case against her husband Zahir and his parents Mafiz Uddin and Laily Begum. Police arrested Laily Begum on Sunday.

Laily Begum, however, has denied the allegations. Investigating Officer of the case Saidur Rahman told The Daily Star.

He also said the police have also been trying to arrest other accused.



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique speaks at the inaugural session of a week long training on 'Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in South Asia' at Senate Bhaban on the campus yesterday. The Dean of the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Dhaka and the Saarc Disaster Management Centre, New Delhi organised the training.

TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

Govt may start process in a month

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said the government might start the long-

awaited trial of war criminals within one month through passage of the proposed amendments to International Crimes (Tribunal) Act 1973 in parliament.

No bar will remain left to holding the trial if the amendments to the law are passed, the minister told reporters at his secretariat office in the afternoon.

Shafique said some changes would be brought to the law to ensure fairness, neutrality and international standard in holding the trial.

The opinions of the United Nations legal experts have been considered while preparing the proposal to amend the law, he added.

There are provisions for trial of the armed forces, defence forces or their associate forces under the law, he said, adding that individual and group crimes can also be tried under the proposed law.

A Supreme Court (SC) judge or a person, who qualifies to be appointed as its judge or a person who was a former judge of the SC, will be appointed as the chairman of member of the three-member tribunal, he said.

Shafique said the trial

proceedings will be conducted either in Bangla or English languages and the government can appeal against the tribunal's orders acquitting any accused of the war crime cases with the appellate court.

The minister said the tribunal can enjoy freedom in discharging its judicial duties and will ensure justice.

He said the government has already identified some places to set up tribunals and offices of the judges, prosecutors and investigators for holding the trial, and final decision on the issue will be taken soon.

The investigators and prosecutors will be appointed soon and there should not be any confusion about it, the minister added.

Regarding the BDR mutiny, he said the trial of Pikhana massacre can be held under the BDR act and the trial of any incident beyond the mutiny can be held under the conventional law.

It could be determined after completion of the investigation of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) under which law the BDR mutiny will be tried, he added.

NAT'L EDUCATION POLICY

Committee members to submit views by July 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The members of Education Policy Formulation Committee would submit their individual opinions on the primary draft of the much-

awaited national education policy by July 15, sources said yesterday.

The committee has almost completed the draft policy with the recommendations of extending the primary education level up to class VIII, making several subjects mandatory for all mediums of students at the primary level and holding a public examination at the end.

It will hold a meeting on July 21 for further development of the policy. Later, they will also hold discussions with 42 concerned organisations in phases for necessary opinions and suggestions on the draft, sources added.

The government on April 8 formed the committee to review the report of Shamsul Haque Education Committee-1997 in order to formulate a modern national education policy in line with the Quadratic Khuda Education Commission-1974 report.

Headed by National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, the committee held its first meeting on May 3 and co-opt two more members in the committee.

Sources said the primary-level students of general, madrasa and English mediums will have to study Bangla, Mathematics, Basic Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Social Studies and Bangladesh Studies.

The secondary level would be from class IX to class XII.

Two robbed of Tk 14 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers took away Tk 13.60 lakh from two employees of a money exchange office at Motijheel in the city in broad daylight yesterday.

Police said three muggers intercepted Sachchu Miah and Jewel near the T & T Colony at around 5:00pm when they were going to Motijheel from Purana Paltan by rickshaw.

"The muggers forcibly stopped the rickshaw and snatched the bag containing the money from them," said Deputy Commissioner (DC) Khandaker Muhiul Motijheel Zone.

"We are trying to track down the criminals and recover the money," he added.

PETITION BY SHAH ALAM

HC sends file to CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday sent to the Chief Justice the file on the writ petitions filed by Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam, his wife and their two sons challenging their convictions handed down by the trial court in a tax evasion case.

The HC bench of Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Borhan Uddin took the decision following submissions of the lawyers.

Additional Attorney General MK Rahman told the court that the government has taken two weeks' time from the HC to submit reply to its rule in the writ petitions, and the court has stayed the convictions of the petitioners following the time prayer.

There is nothing wrong with the government's move taking time, but the writer of the article has seriously criticized the government involving the subjudice matter, he said.

After the HC proceedings, Petitioners' lawyer Barrister Fida M Kamal, also a former attorney general, misbehaved with reporters covering the Supreme Court when they wanted to know from him (Fida M Kamal) about the High Court order in the case.



it's just being a woman...

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* Conditions apply

As Eid-Festival approaches, The Daily Star is putting together their

FASHION right ahead of the country's largest shopping season.

EID CATALOGUE 09

We would like your fashion house to contribute to this exclusive and comprehensive catalogue.

If you wish to participate, please send us the outfits you would like to feature in the album, so that we may conduct the photo shoot for the catalogue. Please also include product details, as our writers will require the information. We will ensure that the products will be properly handled and returned.

We are certain that your participation will be mutually beneficial

ATTENTION

Designers, Boutiques, Shoes, Bags and other fashion accessories stores.

Design submission deadline 14-07-09

Contact:
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Criteria for participation

1. The dresses, saris or other apparel items should express the mood of the festival.
2. Materials used for the dresses should be locally produced.
3. Design should be original and fabrics should suit the weather and environment.
4. The dresses and other items sent for the album are returnable.
5. The dresses and other items must be handed over to The Daily Star by July 14, 2009.
6. Per entry fee Tk. 200/- (minimum 3 entries for each participating house)